

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 HA-05
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /116 W
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R 141050Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCOMSOLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0629

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, TP, GB
SUBJ: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS: SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 0448 (B) LIBREVILLE 0545

1. KAMANDA WA KAMANDA, OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, REPORTED THAT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTER HAS DECIDED TO SEND MISSION OF INQUIRY TO SAO TOME IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT DACOSTA'S APPEAL (REFTEL S).

ACCORDING TO KAMANDA, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TOOK THE INVASION THREAT FAIRLY LIGHTLY. HE LAUGHINGLY ADDED THAT EVERYONE KNEW THE ONLY SHIPS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN SPOTTED FROM STP WERE US NAVY SHIPS MAKING GOODWILL VISITS DOWN AFRICAN COAST. BECAUSE OF SOME REFERENCE TO STP DOCUMENTS CAPTURED IN THE JANUARY 1977 BENIN MERCENARY RAID, HOWEVER, MINISTERS DECIDED THAT AN INVESTIGATIVE MISSION WAS JUSTIFIED.

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2. THE REAL PROBLEM ON STP, KAMANDA SPECULATED, WAS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL ONE CAUSED IN PART BY ECONOMIC MALAISE. THE INVASION SPECTER WAS MERELY A DIVERSION. KAMANDA STATED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT DACOSTA HAD ASKED THE CUBANS TO STATION SECURITY FORCES ON THE ISLAND BUT THAT THE CUBANS HAD DECLINED. THEY HAD, HOWEVER, GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT THEIR INTERVENTION UNIT IN CONGO, COULD RESPOND QUICKLY ENOUGH TO MEET ANY EXTERNAL

THREAT. KAMANDA ALSO SAID THAT DACOSTA STILL SUSPECTS
GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO WANTS TO TAKEOVER STP AND SAO TOMEAN
EXILES RESIDENT IN LIBREVILLE SUCH AS FORMER HEALTH MINISTER
DAGRACA ARE SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN BONGO'S SCHEME.TIENKEN

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